



AmeriCorps Farm Educators (4 positions)

What is the Silicon Valley HealthCorps?

In an innovative new partnership, The Health Trust has joined together with AmeriCorps and nine local organizations to form the Silicon Valley HealthCorps. The goal of this collaboration is to use gardens, farm to school programs and the work of 46 AmeriCorps members to bring fresh fruits, vegetables and education to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The program seeks to engage the community as active participants in promoting and sustaining community and school gardens, and to provide a coordinated, county-wide approach to expanding garden based learning. The program will also increase access to fresh produce through the development of new school and community gardens, low-cost farm stands, and by utilizing a farm-to-school model to increase the amount of fresh and local produce served in school lunches.

What is Full Circle Farm?

Full Circle Farm is an 11-acre sustainable, educational farm nestled in the heart of Silicon Valley. Located on Santa Clara Unified School District land, our goals are to inspire curiosity about the natural world, cultivate environmental leadership, and promote meaningful physical activity and a deep appreciation of fresh, healthy foods.

Fifty percent of the food grown at Full Circle Farm will go directly into Santa Clara Unified School District cafeterias (where 45% qualify for free or reduced school lunch) while helping local youth experience success while they develop job and life skills through the growing, harvesting and marketing of fruit & vegetable crops. Programs being developed include a science and nutrition elective for 6-8th graders, a farm-based apprenticeship program for teenagers, a mentoring program where at-risk teens lead elementary youth in garden and nutrition workshops, and a variety of school field trip programs.

As a team, young people will grow and process their own food, sell produce at farmers' markets, and engage in healthy food campaigns. Our students will develop critical life skills of communication, teamwork, leadership, decision-making, and problem-solving through practical, hands-on agricultural and entrepreneurial experiences. Full Circle Farm is a project of the nonprofit Sustainable Community Gardens.

Member Duties, Requirements and Benefits

This position is ideal for a recent college graduate who would like to spend a year learning about sustainable, educational agriculture. The position involves working

with both youth and adults from diverse backgrounds and being an integral public face for the farm during our critical start up phase.

Primary duties include 6th and 7th grade hands-on farm education, curriculum development, and assisting with educational workshops and tours. Other responsibilities include gardening, including propagation, irrigation, soil management, bed preparation, weeding, and harvesting. AmeriCorps staff will also assist with produce marketing and distribution, running the neighborhood farm stand, CSA coordination, and selling at local farmers markets as time permits.

Experience and enthusiasm in environmental and community education, classroom teaching, and working with kids are strongly preferred, but applicants with other related experience may apply. Applicants **MUST** be prepared for the rigors of farm work: long hours of heat & sun, regularly lifting 50+ pounds, and engaging in challenging labor over a sustained period.

2 Full Time Positions

Term: October 2010-September 2011
Work Schedule: Full time (with regular Saturday commitments)
Age Requirement: 18 years of age +
Language Requirement: Bi-lingual Spanish/English or Hindi/English a plus
Education Requirement: B.A. preferred

Program Benefits: \$16,000 living stipend (distributed bi-weekly)
\$5,350 post service education award
Access to farm produce
Health Insurance

2 Quarter Time Positions

Term: October 2010-September 2011
Work Schedule: 12 hours per week, some Saturdays
Age Requirement: 18 years of age +
Language Requirement: Bi-lingual Spanish/English or Hindi/English a plus
Education Requirement: B.A. preferred, degree in progress acceptable

Program Benefits: \$4,000 stipend distributed monthly
\$1,415 post service education award

Please direct inquiries to Katie Smith katies@healthtrust.org or (408) 961-9899. Or visit www.healthtrust.org/svhealthcorps for more information.